IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), as indicated below:

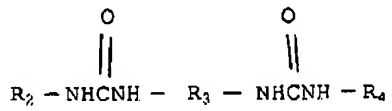
1 (currently amended): A nitrite free grease composition for avoiding an abnormal peeling of a rolling surface of a bearing, said nitrite free grease comprising:

a base oil,

a thickener, and

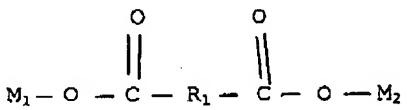
an additive,

wherein the base oil contains 20% by weight or more of alkyldiphenyl ether oil in the base oil, and has a kinetic viscosity of 20 to 150 mm2/s at 40 °C, and wherein the thickener is an aromatic diurea compound represented by the following formula (2)



(2)

where R_2 and R_4 are the same or different, and represent each an aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, and R_3 represents an aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, and is contained in an amount of 5 to 30% by weight based on the total amount of the base oil and the thickener, and wherein the additive contains as an essential component 0.05 to 10 parts by weight of a metal salt of a dibasic acid based on 100 parts by weight of the base oil and the thickener, the metal salt of the dibasic acid being represented by the following formula:



(1)

where M_1 and M_2 represent the same or different alkali metal, and R_1 represents aliphatic hydrocarbon group or an aromatic hydrocarbon group said grease containing no nitrite.

2 (canceled)

3 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base oil contains synthesized hydrocarbon oil.

4-6 (canceled)

7 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the R_2 and R_4 is $C_6H_4(CH_3)$, and the R_3 is $C_6H_4CH_2C_6H_4$.

8 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the M_1 and M_2 are each lithium, sodium, or potassium.

9 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt of the dibasic acid is one of a metal salt of azelaic acid, sebacic acid and adipic acid.

10 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal salt of the dibasic acid is sodium sebacate.

11 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additive comprises 0.05 to 5 parts by weight of an antioxidant in addition to the metal salt of the dibasic acid based on 100 parts by weight of the base oil and the thickener.

12 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of a sulfur-containing antioxidant, a phenol-based antioxidant and an amine-based antioxidant.

13 (original) A grease composition sealed bearing, in which a sliding part of the bearing is sealed with the grease as claimed in claim 1.

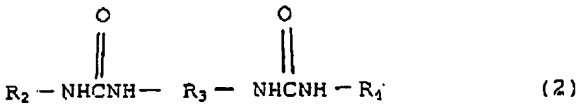
14. (new): A nitrite free grease composition for avoiding an abnormal peeling of a rolling surface of a bearing, said nitrite free grease consisting essentially of:

a base oil,

a thickener, and

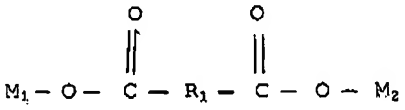
an additive,

wherein the base oil contains 20% by weight or more of alkyldiphenyl ether oil in the base oil, and has a kinetic viscosity of 20 to 150 mm2/s at 40 °C, and wherein the thickener is an aromatic diurea compound represented by the following formula (2)



(2)

where R_2 and R_4 are the same or different, and represent each an aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, and R_3 represents an aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, and is contained in an amount of 5 to 30% by weight based on the total amount of the base oil and the thickener, and wherein the additive contains as an essential component 0.05 to 10 parts by weight of a metal salt of a dibasic acid based on 100 parts by weight of the base oil and the thickener, the metal salt of the dibasic acid being represented by the following formula:



(1),

where M_1 and M_2 represent the same or different alkali metal, and R_1 represents aliphatic hydrocarbon group or an aromatic hydrocarbon group said grease containing no nitrite.

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